

*Kim Hunter Reed, Chair*  
*James Ammons*  
*Vladimir Appeaning*  
*Ray Belton*  
*Joseph Bouie*  
*Gerald Boudreaux*  
*Preston Castille*  
*Ava Dejoie*  
*Ronnie Dyer*  
*Richard Gallot, Jr.*  
*Jimmy Harris*  
*James Henderson*  
*Jason Hughes*



*Patrick Jefferson*  
*Makesha Judson*  
*Walter Kimbrough*  
*Orlando McMeans*  
*Kelsey Perine*  
*John Pierre*  
*Vincent Pierre*  
*Larissa Littleton-Steib*  
*Toya Barnes-Teamer*  
*Reynold Verret*  
*Arlanda Williams*  
*Stephanie Willis*

**HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Valdry Center for Philanthropy, Acadiana Room**  
**Southern University and A&M College**  
 Tuesday, October 25, 2022  
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. Vladimir Appeaning	SUSLA
Mr. Preston Castille	BESE
Dr. Allen Vital, Proxy	Southern University A&M
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Dr. Rochelle Ford	Dillard University
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Dr. Claire Norris, Proxy	UL System
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib	Delgado Community College
Ms. Makesha Judson	Department of Economic Development
Dr. Orlando McMeans	Southern Ag Center
Mr. John Pierre	Southern Law Center
Rep. Vincent Pierre	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Mr. Tavares Walker, Proxy	Louisiana Workforce Commission
Dr. Reynold Verret	Xavier University of LA
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana
<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. James Ammons	SUNO
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Sen. Jimmy Harris	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana

Mr. Ronnie Dyer	Student Member/SUNO
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House Representative
Michael McClanahan	NAACP
Rep. Vincent Pierre	LA Legislative Black Caucus

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, October 25, 2022. The roll was taken, and a quorum was not established.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisor, led the recitation of oaths of office for the new Council members present. Council members who were absent will be sworn in at a later date.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENTS

Commissioner Reed welcomed new member Dr. Rochelle Ford, President of Dillard University, to the Council and invited her to make brief comments. Dr. Ford expressed her gratitude in joining the Council and that she was looking forward to continued partnership and collaboration with the other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

REVIEW OF ACT 236

Commissioner Reed invited Brianna Golden to provide an overview of Act 236 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature. Ms. Golden gave a brief presentation, describing the roles and responsibilities of the Council, which include:

1. Advising the Commissioner of Higher Education regarding methods to enhance the capabilities of HBCUs to serve the needs of their students and the state and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs;
2. Strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state programs; and
3. Strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's workforce and economic development activities.

Commissioner Reed thanked Ms. Golden for her presentation and acknowledged her contributions as a graduate of Southern University Law Center. Commissioner Reed also reflected on the legislative intent in the formation of the Council and invited Senator Gerald Boudreaux to make brief remarks. Senator Boudreaux shared that the legislative intent in forming the Council was for HBCUs to have collective representation and acknowledged the Board of Regents for its work for the Council. Commissioner Reed thanked Senator Boudreaux and expressed that the Board of Regents is happy to be engaged in this work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Golden informed the Commissioner that quorum had been established. Commissioner Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022, meeting.

**On motion of Dr. Reynold Verret, seconded by Dr. Vladimir Appeaning, the Council**

## **approved the minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting.**

### 2022 HBCU WEEK CONFERENCE

#### HBCU SCHOLAR RECOGNITION & PRESENTATION

Commissioner Reed introduced the 2022 White House HBCU Scholar Recipients:

- Kalaya Sibley, Dillard University
- Nina Giddens, Xavier University
- Diamond Williams, Xavier University
- Shanelle Staten, Southern University Law Center
- Bashar Salaeh, Southern University Law Center
- Brandon Horne, Southern University and A&M College

Scholars Brandon Horne and Bashar Saleh shared their respective award-winning presentations provided for the MUREP Innovation and Technology Transfer Idea Competition, sponsored by NASA. The Commissioner and the Council commended the students on their presentations.

#### NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HBCUS UPDATE

Commissioner Reed invited Dr. Walter Kimbrough, member of the President's National Advisory Board on HBCUs, to provide a federal update. Dr. Kimbrough thanked the Commissioner and the Council for extending an invitation to present. Dr. Kimbrough shared the national focuses for HBCUs: infrastructure, research, career pathways and HBCU preservation and growth. He advised that he would continue to keep Commissioner Reed and the Council informed on discussions and decisions of the National Advisory Board.

Dr. Orlando McMeans, Chancellor of Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, expressed gratitude to Commissioner Reed and informed the Council of his testimony before Congress and the state legislature relative to obtaining equitable state funding for 1890 institutions. He also thanked Dr. Kimbrough for his work as a member of the National Board. Dr. Kimbrough noted the importance of 1890 institutions obtaining funds owed to them from the state and to consider how the 2022 electoral races will possibly affect funding for HBCUs. John K. Pierre, Chancellor of Southern University Law Center, inquired whether the President can issue an executive order calling for the equitable funding of HBCUs. Dr. Kimbrough responded that he is unsure whether the President can call for equitable funding in an executive order, however, he noted that there have been conversations on a national level as to whether a low percentage of federal research dollars can be allocated to HBCUs as a possible funding solution. Chancellor Pierre commented that the state of Virginia treats HBCUs as an entity eligible for preferred contracting and suggested that this approach could serve as a model for Louisiana.

#### BREAKING BARRIERS RECAP

Commissioner Reed invited Chancellor Pierre to comment on a panel discussion he moderated during the National HBCU Week Conference. Chancellor Pierre shared that the Southern University System submitted a proposal to present on how the System tries to break down barriers and to serve communities through outreach designed to attract economic development. Chancellor Pierre explained that through the creation of Southern University Law Center's Technology and Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic, support is provided to local start-up companies. He also noted that the Legal Clinic partners with Southern University's Small Business Development Center at several

campus locations to provide services to the community. Chancellor Pierre commented that higher education institutions can have a transformative affect in underserved communities.

### GNO, INC. ENTREPRENEURS

Commissioner Reed introduced Daphine Barnes, Director of STEM and Economic Mobility at GNO, Inc. Commissioner Reed shared that she attended a program with Ms. Barnes and several HBCU students from the New Orleans area, during which the students were able discuss their experiences participating in an entrepreneurship program. Ms. Barnes thanked Dr. Reed and Council members.

Ms. Barnes provided information about two programs GNO, Inc. offers to HBCU students: HBCU STEM Connect and HBCU Start Up. She discussed the impact and importance of exposing more HBCU students to jobs in STEM and promoting entrepreneurship through start-up companies, emphasizing the talent HBCU students possess and produce. Two HBCU students, Nayah Thomas and Victoria Hardy, shared their experiences as interns through the HBCU Start Up program.

Ms. Barnes emphasized the need for additional resources, including funding, to encourage more student participation in the internship programs. She also said that she hopes to encourage more statewide participation in GNO, Inc.'s programs. Commissioner Reed expressed excitement for potential statewide participation and inquired whether it was a requirement for students from other HBCUs around the state to live in New Orleans to participate in GNO, Inc. programs. Ms. Barnes replied that her goal is for students originally from New Orleans to participate with the local companies involved with the program. Dr. Kimbrough commented that the program is helpful in helping to retain talent inside the state. Dr. Ford asked whether GNO, Inc. has spoken with the other eight STEM Regional Centers within the state to see if they can replicate GNO, Inc.'s programs. Ms. Barnes replied that GNO, Inc. is looking into speaking with the other regional centers in order to grow the programs. She noted, however, that each center is structured differently and that the programs may be implemented faster in certain areas due to community settings. Commissioner Reed commented that GNO, Inc. is the only economic development entity to host a regional center; most others are hosted by K-12 or higher education entities.

### CAPITOL PARK MUSEUM PROJECT

Commissioner Reed introduced Rodneya Hart, Museum Division Director, to discuss a project proposal for HBCU representation in the Capitol Park Museum. Mrs. Hart emphasized the lack of HBCU representation throughout the museum and the opportunity for HBCUs to share their respective histories through the addition of permanent exhibitions. She shared that the project will be completed in two phases, with the cost of Phase I estimated at \$30,000; the cost for Phase II is not yet determined.

Commissioner Reed expressed her enthusiasm for this project and stated that the museum will follow up with the members regarding the guidelines for corporate sponsorship. She also noted that HBCU representation in the State Museum speaks to the value of the institutions to the state. Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University of Louisiana, inquired about the possibility of a virtual option to view the exhibits. Mrs. Hart indicated that this is an option and she has seen a demand for more digital access and the creation of digital exhibitions. Dr. Ford indicated that there has been an effort to digitize archives at Dillard University and inquired whether Mrs. Hart has a plan to follow up with the institutions to obtain designated points of contact for this project. Commissioner Reed indicated that there is an intent to obtain points of contacts from each institution. Dr. Allen Vital, Chief of Staff of the Southern University System, stated that he looks forward to this opportunity and is excited about participating in the project. Mrs. Hart reiterated the

need for HBCU representation in the museum and expressed her excitement to work with the Council.

## COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, delivered the committee update on behalf of Dr. James Ammons. Dr. Craig shared the new HBCU designation requirements in the admissions policy and indicated the three different pathways into a four-year public institution: (1) the core and the GPA requirement; (2) an Associate's Degree (AA) or nine early college credit hours with a 2.0 GPA; or (3) the ACT equivalent. She also noted the revisions in the placement policy, which would result in improved student access and ] success in completion of a gateway Math and/or English course. The HiSET will be eligible for placement. Dr. Craig also shared statistics indicating that persons of color have historically been disproportionately placed in remedial courses. Dr. Craig noted that co-requisite courses are helpful for students disproportionately placed in remedial courses.

### STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Reynold Verret indicated the urgency to be more competitive for federal and state grants, suggesting utilization of and participation in the new energy economy. He also mentioned the "Age to the Future" initiative, which includes the possibility of creating green energy through large bodies of water, such as oceans, in order to develop hydrogen gas.

### WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Lisa Vosper, Associate Commissioner for Workforce Development, shared information about the availability of training and resources provided through Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Dr. Vosper stated that career pathways has been a primary focus of the workforce and economic development subgroup. Dr. Vosper briefly introduced Tedra Cheatham and Christopher Stelly from LED, who encouraged the HBCUs to pursue LED's Entertainment and Development Funds.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Gallot, President of Grambling State University, shared a presentation on the history of the public relations subcommittee of the Council. Dr. Gallot suggested that HBCU Day at the Capital be earlier in the year. Commissioner Reed confirmed that HBCU Day in 2023 will be in April. President Gallot also shared a brief video to encourage members to remember their reasons for serving on the Council.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Reed opened the floor for Public Comments. Dr. Melanie Smith-Johnson of the Nelson Mandela School at SUBR suggested appointing a faculty representative to the Council, to take the information received and relay it to faculty boards at all schools.

## OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURMENT

Makesha Judson thanked Commissioner Reed and commented on the need to invest in talented individuals within the state.

Commissioner Reed thanked everyone for attending and informed members that the next scheduled

meeting would be held at Xavier University.

There being no other business, Commissioner Reed called for a motion to adjourn. With a motion by Chancellor Pierre, seconded by Dr. Allen Vital, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

